

Lake of the Woods County Adult Protection Prioritization Guidelines

Purpose

To ensure timely and consistent response to reports of suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults, balancing safety with the adult's right to self-determination.

Legal Authority

- Minnesota Vulnerable Adult Act (MN Statute 626.557)
- Definitions under MN Statute 626.5572
- Reports received through MAARC (Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center)

Screening Criteria

A report will be screened in when:

1. The person meets the definition of a Vulnerable Adult (categorical or functional).
2. Allegations meet statutory definitions of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.
3. There is enough information to identify and locate the adult.

Prioritization Levels & Response Times

Immediate Response (Emergency Protective Services):

- Trigger: Life-threatening situation or likely serious harm within 72 hours.
- Response: Within 24 hours (face-to-face if needed). After hours, law enforcement responds.

Level 1 Priority:

- Trigger: Abuse allegations; adult not in immediate danger but needs protection.
- Response: Begin investigation within 24 hours (excluding weekends/holidays).

Level 2 Priority:

- Trigger: Neglect allegations; no immediate danger.
- Response: Begin investigation within 72 hours (excluding weekends/holidays).

Financial Exploitation Threshold

Loss that adversely deprives the Vulnerable Adult of meeting their own needs.

Quick Reference Table

Priority	Trigger	Response Time
Immediate	Life-threatening or imminent serious harm	≤ 24 hrs
Level 1	Abuse, not immediate danger	≤ 24 hrs
Level 2	Neglect, no immediate danger	≤ 72 hrs

Screening and Prioritization Flowchart

Flowchart Steps:

1. Receive Report of Suspected Maltreatment
2. Does person meet Vulnerable Adult definition?
 - If No: Screen Out
 - If Yes: Continue
3. Do allegations meet statutory definitions?
 - If No: Screen Out
 - If Yes: Continue
4. Enough info to identify and locate adult?
 - If No: Screen Out
 - If Yes: Assign Priority:
 - Immediate: Life-threatening → Respond ≤ 24 hrs
 - Level 1: Abuse → Respond ≤ 24 hrs
 - Level 2: Neglect → Respond ≤ 72 hrs

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